



National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
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M E D I A A D V I S O R Y

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JOINT FCC-NARUC-NASUCA WORKING GROUP LAUNCHES TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WEBSITE

Washington, DC - On February 7, 2006, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), in partnership with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA), announces the launch of a new website dedicated to providing consumers, State agencies and industry with information about telephone assistance programs Lifeline and Link-Up.

The new website (www.lifeline.gov) is part of a nationwide initiative initiated in 2005 by State and federal agencies to increase awareness and enrollment in State and federal Lifeline and Link-Up programs, which provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers for telephone service and hook-up fees.

NARUC President and Iowa Utilities Board Commissioner Diane Munns said: "NARUC is pleased to be a part of the 'Lifeline Across America' initiative. The simple fact is that these programs will not be used if information about them doesn't reach the people who might use them. Education about Lifeline and Link-Up is necessary for their full use and this website is another way to spread the word to consumers who may benefit from these crucial programs."

The FCC-NARUC-NASUCA Working Group on Lifeline and Link-Up is currently gathering and analyzing input on Lifeline and Link-Up outreach and later this year plans to make available new and targeted outreach materials through the Web site. In addition, the Working Group will make recommendations on best outreach practices for carriers that participate in the Lifeline and Link-Up programs.

For today's press release from the FCC and other news about the FCC, go to www.fcc.gov. For today's press release from NASUCA and other news about NASUCA, go to www.nasuca.org.

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889. Its members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of State public utility commissions before the three branches of the Federal government and the Independent Federal agencies. Additionally, NARUC files briefs and pleadings before the U.S. Supreme Court and other Federal courts in support of State utility commission interests.

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